

Hard Rock Mining Impact Board
Meeting Minutes
June 26, 2015
MT Department of Commerce, Helena, Mt

Board Members Present

Chairman Mary Ellen Cremer, Vice-Chair Marianne Roose, Donna von Nieda, and Joe Michaletz.

Board Members on Conference Call

Dolores Plumage

Montana Department of Commerce Staff Present

Aaron Pratt, Hard Rock Impact Mining Administrative Officer, Ty Jones, Community Development Division Attorney, and Amy Peck, Administrative Assistant.

Public present:

Harold Blattie	Montana Association of Counties
John Beaudry	Stillwater Mining Company
Herb Rolfes	Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Warren McCullough	Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Doug Mitchell	Montana Department of Commerce

Welcome – Call to order

Chairman Cremer called to order the meeting of the Hard Rock Mining Impact Board at 9:05 a.m.

Roll call:

Mr. Pratt called the Roll for Board members. The following board members were present: Mary Ellen Cremer, Donna von Nieda, Joe Michaletz, and Marianne Roose. On the phone was Dolores Plumage.

Welcome from Department of Commerce

Deputy Director Doug Mitchell welcomed all. The Department is honored to be of support to the Board. The impact on the Montana economy is not insignificant and the service of the Board is a noble endeavor and is greatly appreciated.

Review of Board History and Statutes

- Mr. Harold Blattie - Executive Director, Montana Association of Counties, provided a review of the Metal Mines License Tax and the role the Board has with regards to that tax.

Hard Rock Industry Update

- Mr. Warren McCullough – Environmental Management Bureau Chief with the Department of Environmental Quality, presented a slideshow on mines throughout the state and their current status.

Opportunity for Public Comment

The following individuals provided comments:

- John Beaudry – Stillwater Mining Company, there was an adjustment submitted last year which related to snow plowing on Nye Road. There was an interlocal agreement between the State and the County to maintain the road but the State no longer will. Stillwater Mine is providing some help to the County during severe weather either through manpower or equipment. It's a public safety issue. Asking for the status of that adjustment and whether it was acted on.

Functions of the Hard Rock Mining Impact Board

- Mr. Pratt – Administrative Officer for Hard Rock Mining Impact Board, read a summary of authority and responsibility of the Board.
- Mr. Pratt provided a review of the allocations of Metal Mines License Tax. This will need to be updated due to an increase of tax allocation.
- Mr. Jones – Legal Counsel for Department of Commerce, provided a review of board operations and the Appointee Handbook.
- Mr. Jones presented a slideshow on Robert's Rules of Order.

Review of 2015 Stillwater Mining Company's Metal Mines License Tax Allocation

- Mr. Pratt introduced the letter from Stillwater Mining Company. This will require board action.
- John Beaudry – this is an annual letter as required by law embodied in the East Boulder Impact Plan. This is the only plan that has this provision. The process starts in January and concludes in June. The counties have reviewed it and the Board can review it before it is submitted to the Department of Revenue. It is an important document as it affects many.

Action by the Board: Ms. Roose makes a motion to approve the 2015 Metal Mines License Tax Allocation. Mr. Michaletz seconded. Motion passed.

Board Matters:

- Approval of the minutes for both April and May 2014 meetings.

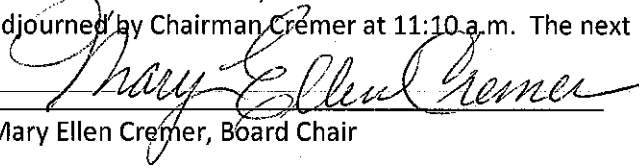
Action by the Board: Ms. Von Nieda made a motion to approve the April 25, 2014 minutes. Mr. Michaletz seconded. Motion passed.

Action by the Board: Ms. Roose made a motion to approve the May 14, 2014 Conference Call minutes. Ms. Von Nieda seconded. Motion passed.

- Mr. Pratt discussed the Implementation Guide. Staff is trying to condense it to be most effective and applicable for the Board. A Draft is being worked on to be available to the public, agencies, and mines and the general timeline would be that in October the division would take public comment and then begin implementing those changes. In May 2016 it would be presented to the Board and then followed up with the ARM process.
- **Questions and comments from the Board** – Will the re-write need board approval? There is concern that there will not be enough time to review prior to October meeting as the public comment period should be at least a month. Can the guide be placed on the website?
- Mr. Pratt – staff will want the Board's feedback. And the guide can be placed on the website.
- Mr. Jones – the guide is arduous to review due to the many statutes and ARM's cited throughout. One suggestion is to have one citation to these instead of individually.
- Mr. Pratt reminded the Board that the allocated funds will need to be distributed by end of October so the next meeting should be mid-October in order to allow Board participation.

Adjournment:

With no other business, Ms. von Nieda made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Michaletz seconded. The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Cremer at 11:10 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for October 22, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.



Mary Ellen Cremer, Board Chair

10/29/15
Date